

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 071684

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 RSC-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ N: GLANE: MHD

4/16/73 EXT 22622

APPROVED BY AF/ N: HIODELL

AF/ PPS: DLMACK

S/ PC: DCUTHELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS

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PASS ORAN

E. O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 4-20-73

TAGS: PFOR, AG

SUBAECT: SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

1. TEXT OF SECTION ON ALGERIA IN SECRETARY' S 1972 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE APRIL 19 FOLLOWS FOR POST INFORMATION:

2. QUOTE: OUR GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH ALGERIA ATTESTS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS, EVEN WHERE FORMAL DIPLOMATIC TIES REMAIN BROKEN. ALGERIA IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION FINANCED BY THE SALE OF ITS GAS AND OIL. IT SEES THE UNITED STATES AS AN IMPORTANT MARKET FOR THESE PRODUCTS AND AS A SOURCE OF CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY. THE EXPORT- IMPORT BANK HAS BEGUN TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FINANCING ALGERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES NEEDS NEW ENERGY SUPPLY SOURCES AND LOOKS TO ALGERIA TO HELP PROVIDE THEM. TWO MAJOR PROJECTS FOR THE IMPORTATION TO THE EASTERN COAST OF THE UNITED STATES OF ALGERIAN NATURAL GAS IN LIQUEFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 071684

FORM (LNG) MOVED FORWARD DURING THE YEAR UNDER THE COM-MERCIAL SPONSORSHIP OF EL PASO AND DISTRIGAS. IN MARCH THE

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION AUTHORIZED DISTRIGAS TO IMPORT UP TO 15.4 BILLION CUBIC FEET OF GAS ANNUALLY OVER A 20- YEAR PERIOD. IN OCTOBER THE COMMISSION APPROVED ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND SONATRACH, THE ALGERIAN STATE- OWNED CORPORATION FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS, FOR THE ANNUAL IMPORTATION OF 365 BILLION CUBIC FEET OF LNG OVER A 25- YEAR PERIOD. THE TWO PROJECTS WILL REQUIRE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS OF OVER DOLS 1.5 BILLION BY ALGERIA AND AMERICAN COMPANIES.

QUOTE: DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT ALLOWED TWO AMERICAN COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAD BEEN HIJACKED TO ALGERIA, TO DEPART IMMEDIATELY WITH THEIR CREWS. THE ALGERIANS ALSO RETURNED RANSOM MONEY EXTORTED BY THE HIJACKERS. NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE OF THE GOVERNMENT' S INTENTION REGARDING THE HIJACKERS THEMSELVES, WHO REMAIN IN ALGERIA. UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE071684
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/ N: GLANE: MHD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730458/abqcdyrn.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, AG
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005